

CLAIMS:

1. A system for providing visual display security on a general-purpose computer, said general-purpose computer capable of running an operating system and an application program, said operating system and application program presenting a user interface in the form of display windows, said system comprising:

a display window having a default display characteristic;

a computer security program operating on said general purpose computer, said computer security program altering said default display characteristic to a modified display characteristic, said modified display characteristic rendering said display window unreadable, and

an optical filter matched to said modified display characteristic such that said display window becomes readable when viewed through said optical filter.

2. The visual display security system of claim 1 wherein said modified display characteristic comprises a random dot stereo gram.

3. The visual display security system of claim 1 wherein said modified display characteristic comprises a stretching algorithm applied to said display window.

4. The visual display security system of claim 1 wherein said modified display characteristic comprises a blurring algorithm applied to said display window.

5. The visual display security system of claim 1 wherein said modified display characteristic comprises an optical pattern superimposed on said display window.

6. The visual display security system of claim 5 wherein said optical pattern further comprises a color matched to said optical filter.

7. The visual display security system of claim 1 wherein said modified display characteristic comprises a displayed image shape.

8. The visual display security system of claim 1 wherein said optical filter is a pair of glasses.

9. The visual display security system of claim 1 wherein

said optical filter is a screen placed on said display window.

10. The visual display security system of claim 1 further comprising a password protection module for disabling and enabling said visual display security system.

11. The visual display security system of claim 1 further comprising a tuner for matching said modified display characteristic to said optical filter.

12. A system for providing visual display security on a general-purpose computer, said general-purpose computer capable of running an operating system and an application program, said operating system and application program presenting a user interface in the form of display windows, said system comprising:

a display window having a default display characteristic;

a computer security program operating on said general purpose computer, said computer security program altering said default display characteristic to a modified display characteristic, said computer security program overlaying a pattern on said display window, said pattern operatively associated with said modified display characteristic, said pattern rendering said display window unreadable, and

an optical filter operatively associated with said pattern such that said display window becomes readable when viewed through said optical filter.

13. The visual display security system of claim 12 wherein said default display characteristic is a default font color, said modified display characteristic is a modified font color, said pattern is a colorized pattern and said optical filter is a color filter, said modified font color being matched to said optical filter so as to permit the modified font color to be visible as perceived through said optical filter when said colorized a pattern overlayed on said display window.

14. The visual display security system of claim 12 wherein said optical filter is a pair of glasses.

15. The visual display security system of claim 12 wherein said optical filter is a screen placed on said display window.

16. The visual display security system of claim 12 further

comprising a password protection module for disabling and enabling said visual display security system.

17. The visual display security system of claim 12 further comprising a tuner for matching said pattern to said optical filter.

18. A method for providing visual display security on a general-purpose computer, said general-purpose computer capable of running an operating system and an application program, said operating system and application program presenting a user interface in the form of display windows, said method comprising:

displaying a window having a default display characteristic;

altering said default display characteristic to a modified display characteristic using a computer security program operating on said general purpose computer, said alteration rendering said display window unreadable, and

filtering said display window with an optical filter matched to said modified display characteristic such that said display window becomes readable when viewed through said optical filter.

19. The method for providing visual display security of claim 18 wherein said step of altering further comprises:

obtaining an application program handle;

intercepting events generated by said program handle;

and

reapplying continuously said modified display characteristic in response to said intercepted events.

20. The method for providing visual display security of claim 18 further comprising tuning said modified display characteristic to match said optical filter.

21. The method for providing visual display security of claims 18 further comprising:

creating a list including a plurality of active display windows; and

selecting one of said plurality of active display windows in which to alter said default display characteristic.

22. A method for providing visual display security on a

general-purpose computer, said general-purpose computer capable of running an operating system and an application program, said operating system and application program presenting a user interface in the form of display windows, said method comprising:

- displaying a window having a default display characteristic;

- altering said default display characteristic to a modified display characteristic using a computer security program operating on said general purpose computer;

- matching a pattern to said modified display characteristic;

- overlaying said pattern on said display window, said pattern rendering said display window unreadable, and

- filtering said display window with an optical filter matched to said pattern such that said display window becomes readable when viewed through said optical filter.

23. The method for providing visual display security of claim 22 wherein said step of altering further comprises:

- obtaining an application program handle;

- intercepting events generated by said program handle;

and

- reapplying continuously said modified display characteristic and said pattern in response to said intercepted events.

24. The method for providing visual display security of claim 22 further comprising tuning said pattern to match said optical filter.

25. The method for providing visual display security of claim 22 further comprising:

- creating a list including a plurality of active display windows; and

- selecting one of said plurality of active display windows for which to overlay said pattern.

26. A computer-readable medium for storing a set of instructions for providing visual display security on a general-purpose computer, said general-purpose computer capable of running an operating system and an application program, said

operating system and application program presenting a user interface in the form of display windows, said instructions comprising instructions for causing said computer to:

display a window having a default display characteristic; and

alter said default display characteristic to a modified display characteristic using a computer security program operating on said general purpose computer, said alteration rendering said display window unreadable, said modified display characteristic in said display window capable of being filtered with an optical filter matched to said modified display characteristic such that said display window becomes readable when viewed through said optical filter.

27. A computer-readable medium for storing a set of instructions for providing visual display security on a general-purpose computer, said general-purpose computer capable of running an operating system and an application program, said operating system and application program presenting a user interface in the form of display windows, said instructions comprising instructions for causing said computer to:

displaying a window having a default display characteristic;

altering said default display characteristic to a modified display characteristic using a computer security program operating on said general purpose computer;

matching a pattern to said modified display characteristic; and

overlaying said pattern on said display window, said pattern rendering said display window unreadable, said pattern overlaid on said display window capable of being filtered with an optical filter matched to said modified display characteristic such that said display window becomes readable when viewed through said optical filter.